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CALCASIEU PARISH POLICE JURY
GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF CALCASIEU PARISH, LOUISIANA

Department of Emergency Management

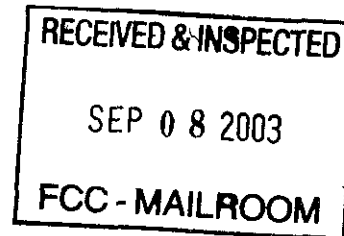
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August 28, 2003

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In The Matter Of Improving Public Safety Communications In The 800 MHz
Band; WT Docket No. 02-55 (Ex Parte)**

Dear Madam Secretary:

The Calcasieu Parish Office of Emergency Preparedness is writing to express its opposition to Nextel's so-called "Consensus Plan" and to urge the FCC to adopt the "Balanced Approach," which was filed on May 29, 2003. As discussed below in greater detail, we believe that the Consensus Plan will unnecessarily jeopardize Public Safety communication systems. Instead, the FCC should adopt a solution, such as the Balanced Approach, that does not require Public Safety licensees to relocate and does not reduce their interference protection.

The Calcasieu Parish Office of Emergency Preparedness has licensed an 800 MHz communications system, which is used by public safety agencies in Calcasieu Parish. The communications system supports a number of Calcasieu Parish Office of Emergency Preparedness activities including public safety preparedness and response..

We are concerned that the Consensus Plan's relocation process is extremely complicated and there is no guarantee that Public Safety licensees will be able to continually operate their communications systems during this process. Furthermore, it is unrealistic to expect all Public Safety licensees to relocate in 12 months or less given the complexity of some Public Safety systems.

Also, Public Safety licensees could be subject to more interference because the Consensus Plan protects Public Safety licensees only if they meet certain signal strength and receiver requirements. Because most Public Safety communication systems do not meet these

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requirements, they will have to expend significant resources to ensure that they are protected from interference. Further, the interference situation could be worse if rebanding is not completed before Nextel's funding runs out.

Therefore, the Calcasieu Parish Office of Emergency Preparedness supports the Balanced Approach, which is superior to the Consensus Plan because it takes pro-active steps to immediately deal with Public Safety interference by relying on technical solutions and increased enforcement. As a result, this proposal is less disruptive and less expensive than the Consensus Plan so Public Safety communications will not be jeopardized. For all the reasons stated above, Calcasieu Parish Office of Emergency Preparedness urges the FCC to adopt the Balanced Approach.

Cordially yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dick Gremillion", with a stylized, cursive script.

Richard "Dick" Gremillion
Director
Office of Emergency Preparedness